Campus Times

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Canceled classes create confusion

Students feel effects of pilot plan

Olivia Russo
News Editor

The beginning of the new semester brought an air of uncertainty and fear among students, as well as faculty, as they learned many classes had been canceled, while others were turned to directed studies, which appear in the class schedule without a designated meeting time or classroom.

During the winter break, some students received emails from advising informing them that their class had been canceled, including some major classes they'd counted on, without full explanation or suggestions for a plan B.

The cancellations and other changes were implemented because of low enrollment, an issue across the University and many universities across the state. The University of La Verne is more than 95% tuition dependent, so low-enrollment directly affects the University's budget.

Cutting some classes and converting others to directed study are among the measures initiated by the provost's office as part of its cost-cutting pilot low-enrolled class policy.

Some students have raised concerns that the new policy will affect their paths to graduation.

Faculty have raised concerns about the policy – which also assumes that smaller classes require less outside-of-class prep time, which, they say, is not generally the case.

"Smaller classes are an opportunity for more in-depth learning and student engagement rather than an opportunity for faculty to do less work," Gail Tang, professor of math, wrote in an emailed statement.

The Faculty Assembly voted last week to pause the low-enrolled class policy following a vote by the Faculty Senate to pause the policy.

The provost's office, working with deans, has offered some flexibility in implementing the low-enrolled class pilot but has not rescinded the policy.

"It has been determined through some analysis that if a class has about 10 students in the class, it's covering its expenses," said Rick Hasse, a faculty senator and professor of accounting and finance.

"It's paying for the teacher, paying for the room, it's paying for the advisors, it's paying for all that."

If the class is deemed critical and does not have the minimum number of students, it could be changed to a directed study designed to teach the same content – but with fewer overall hours.

"We're talking out of both sides of our mouth," Paul Alvarez, professor of kinesiology, said.

"We're saying you had to get paid for the work. Now your supervisor is saying you're doing too much work. And as adjuncts often point out, they don't get fired, they just don't get a contract for next year."

The other option, per the provost's pilot program, is that it could run as a normal class, but offer the faculty member teaching it fewer workload credits.

Full-time faculty are required to fulfill a certain number of workload units, most of which are embedded in their teaching loads. So getting fewer workload units for a class means the faculty member has to add additional work to their overall load.

"I know that we're under financial pressure, but faculty are also really feeling the burden of this financial pressure," said Megan Granquist, president of the faculty senate and professor of kinesiology.

"Faculty would argue that they're feeling it unproportionately to, say, administration."

Administrators, including the provost, associate provosts and deans, who are also interfacing with fewer students, staff and faculty because of low-enrollment trends, have not indicated whether they are subject to a similar cost-cutting pilot in response to revenue shortfalls.

Faculty were informed in November about an upcoming policy for greater cost-efficiency, and they requested specifics.

Some chairs in the natural sciences division asked the provost's office to go through the chairs before cutting classes or changing class formats.

But two weeks before the spring semester started, adjuncts and full-time faculty started receiving emails directly from the provost's office about their classes being cut or changed to directed study.

"This is a policy that is the result of work that has been done over the last two years to look at how can we offer our course schedule in a more cost effective and efficient way," Laura Hartley, interim provost, said.

"So as the institution has seen declining enrollments over the last 10 years or so, we are looking for ways that we can reduce our expenses to match the reduced revenue that we have from fewer students."

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> 'I know that we're under financial pressure, but faculty are also really feeling the burden of this financial pressure.'
> *—Megan Granquist, Faculty Senate president*

Keel studies impact of star endorsements

Isabella Huerta
Staff Writer

Astrid Keel, professor of marketing, discussed the effects of celebrity endorsements' on business revenue Tuesday during her talk in the Randall Lewis Center.

For her lecture titled "Examining the Impact of Celebrity Endorsers' Transgression, Expectancy, Apology, and Brand Continuation in a Cross-Cultural Context," Keel used statistics accumulated from her six years of work on the research project, which she worked on with Subhadip Roy, a professor of marketing at the Indian Institute Of Management in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

"Celebrities have a strong impact on low-information consumers," Keel said.

"When celebrities misbehave, that can wake up the consumer to other potential options."

Keel's research found that some large brands spend a half-billion dollars a year on endorsement deals.

Some brands have begun signing elite high school athletes before they go professional, she said, adding that these rising stars appeal to brands in large part for their social media presence.

These young athletes and social media influencers have established audiences, Keel said.

Familiar brands like Adidas manage well over 200 celebrities.

But celebrities come with some baggage, and their bad behavior affects brands and consumer behavior, the researchers found.

Keel's research found that among celebrities' "transgressions", 60% of the transgressions were done by athletes, 70% of whom were male.

She shared examples of those who betrayed the clean-cut images brands had sought, including Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, who was photographed smoking marijuana from a bong.

Golfer Tiger Woods' sex scandals lost his sponsor Nike more than $1 million in golf ball sales, Keel said.

"We're so far into a cultural space where we market with peoples' lives," said University Chaplain Zandra Wagoner, who attended the Tuesday talk.

"This is an interesting place where we're selling things by other people's popularity or reputations," she said.

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On the Cover

A King Kong figurine scales the top of the Fox Theater Pomona replica on Sunday at the Fairplex Garden Railroad. The exhibition just celebrated its centennial in 2024 at the Los Angeles County Fair. / photo by Thatiana Gibbs

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The Campus Times encourages readers to submit letters to the editors regarding topics covered in the paper. Letters should be no more than 400 words in length and are due by Tuesday at 3 p.m. The Campus Times reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, space and libel. Letters may be sent to **ctimes@laverne.edu**.

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Valentine's event offers crafty gifts

Monique Arambula
Staff Writer

Valentine's Day joy filled the air Monday at the Citrus Lawn where a vibrant marketplace showcased small businesses. Students arrived with friends to explore and shop for the upcoming holiday.

The event was not just about gifts for significant others, it was also a chance to pick up thoughtful presents for friends and companions.

A nostalgic playlist of 1990s and 2000s love songs set the mood, creating a lively and relaxed hangout spot for students.

The vendors' tables were creatively decorated with a few Valentine's Day motifs, featuring heart-shaped displays, vibrant reds and pinks and love-themed streamers under a few booths.

Clusters of friends laughed together as they explored the booths, while a few couples wandered hand in hand.

Curious shoppers stopped to ask questions, drawn in by the colorful setups and friendly business owners.

Many attendees gravitated toward booths positioned in the sunny areas, seeking warmth compared to the shaded parts of Citrus Lawn.

The lively market scene brought happiness to students, symbolizing the joy of the upcoming Valentine's season.

While browsing, students enjoyed friendly assistance from business owners eager to promote their items.

Vendors put their marketing strategies to the test with bargains and kindness.

Many of the business owners shared stories about how they started their ventures and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with student shoppers.

"I am definitely shopping for myself and friends and kind of seeing what's out there," said Sydney Delfin, a junior psychology major.

The marketplace featured plants, jewelry, clothing, lemonade and crocheted items.

"I really like the market itself," said freshman physics major Esteban Rivera.

"It was really cute and easy to find something for my girlfriend for Valentine's Day. So I loved the theme, and I'm glad they did it."

Some students were just shopping despite the Valentine's theme, including Lily Bower-Moore, a sophomore and creative writing major.

"I usually look for clothes," said Lily Bower-Moore, sophomore creative writing major.

"I like looking at the thrifted and vintage clothes and the keychains … I'm not really looking to shop for anyone – just kind of looking around to see what they have."

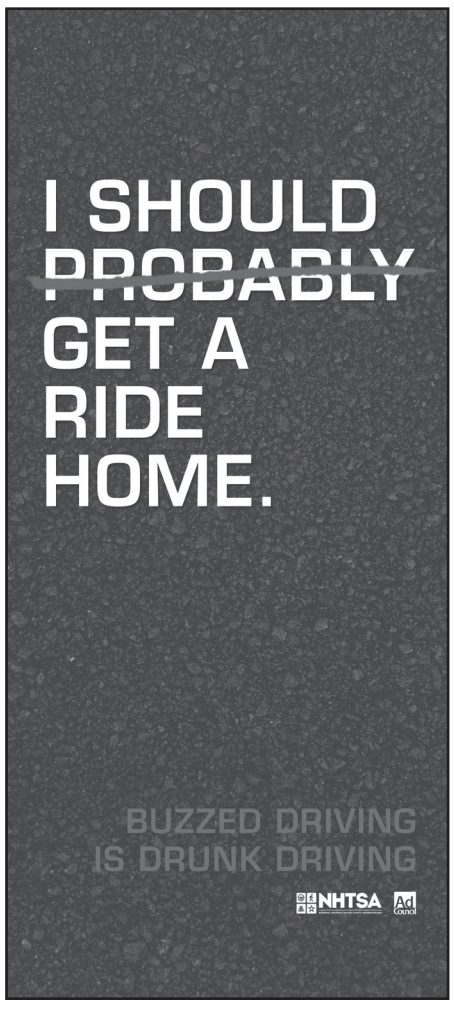
"When I was younger, my mom would make me clothes, and then when I got older, I learned how to crochet from YouTube," Paz Li, one of the vendors selling crocheted keychains and flowers, said.

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Cástula de la Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being Dean's List, Fall 2024

The following students in the Cástulo de la Rocha College of Health and Community Well-Being earned a grade point average of 3.75 or better during the Fall 2024 semester. Congratulations from Dean Kathy Duncan and Associate Dean Jerry Kernes.

Ysabel Abarca
Arthur Acevedo
Andrea Acosta-Felix
Jacob Aguayo
Mariah Alarcon
Angelica Alcantara-Valeriano
Daniel Aldaz
Angelina Alvarez
Ashley Anaya
Daisy Angeles-Corona
Brendan Arellano
Julian Arellano
Karina Arreola-Contreras
Alicia Avalos
Hannah Baker
Madison Barr
Isaac Barrales
Nyla Barzaga
Kearstin Bell
Jacob Bodkins
Kenneth Bontempo
Jocelyn Borbolla
Alexandra Boutte
Madison Bravo
Bernardo Brito
Daniel Brodie
Reiley Burton
Kera Bush
Alyssa Campbell
Charlotte Caraway
Christopher Castillo
Cristina Castro
Gabriela Chavez
Lucas Cheng
Sofia Chiovare
Chloe Chong
Anna Christie
Logan Ciszek
Brandon Cole
Aaliyah Cordova
Taylor Courtney
Alondra Cowgill
Natalie Cruz
Lana Dalati
Nour Daylac
Jasmine De La Torre
Serenity De La Torre
Sarah Dennaoui
Roselyn Duran
Morgan Esebag
Angelique Espinoza
Alana Eudave
Mina Fairall
Samuel Fernandez
Arely Flores
Edward Foo
Anthony Funes
Andres Galura
Michael Galvan
Carlos Garcia
Giovanni Garcia
Isabel Garcia
Jade Garcia
Isabelle Getikian
Kasey Gillis
Dominic Gomez
Mikaela Gonzales
Lauren Gott
Katelyn Graham
Miranda Graham
Trina Gray
Keilani Greer
Madeline Grove
Litzy Guerrero
Jasmine Gutierrez
Jaden Guzman
Fiyona Haile
Cecania Hajnal
Jacob Halczak
Maren Handel
Tytus Hayes
A'Yann Hekima
Sean Hernandez
Paige Hien
Katrina Hitchcock
Marissa Howell
Abigail Hunsicker Robles
Victor Huynh
Gavin Ibrahim
Jordan Ihrig
Dillon Johnson
Ahsha Jones
Elizabeth Joyce
Mira Juncaj
Kailin Katena
Patrick Lagura
Hildelisa Laracuente
Fredi Linares
Megan Llopis
Sophia Lopez
Vida Lopez
Alexander Luna
Trevor Lundblade
Jazmine Madore
Jaylan Mahlstedt
Nicholas Malooly
Samira Marcelo
Matthew Marquez
Lilith Martin
Alyssa Martinez
David Martinez
Elizabeth Martinez
Jacqueline Martinez
Kevlyn Martinez
Salma Martinez
Evelin Martinez-Nieto
Justin Mc Fadden
Trevor McCurry
Katie Medina
Rosalie Medina
Jessenia Mejia
Kathy Mejia Correa
Aneliz Melendez
Maya Mendez
Chyna Mendoza
Nora Meugniot
Joshua Mezquita
Craig Miller
Hideharu Miyata
Ricky Moller-Avitia
Emily Morales
Isabella Munoz
Jesse Munoz
Alexis Negron
Michael Nystrom
Salah Odeh
Natalia Ortiz
Victor Pena
Beatriz Perez
Lauren Peters
Verena Phan
Mia Pintado
Aliyah Pollock
Brandon Puentes
Keren Quintana
Tabasum Rahemi
Eliana Ramirez
Dylan Reiner
Nautica Reyes
Salim Rizk
Gya Rodriguez
Tiffany Rodriguez
Joshua Rook
Natalie Ros
Destiny Ruiz
Mark Saad
Emily Saldivar
Juli Salhab
Lauryn Sanchez
Raul Sandoval Jr.
Emma Schmidt
Sydney Sensat
Janine Lee Brigette Sevillana
Niani Shields
Tiffany Silvas
Alexandria Silver
Leanna Sims
Kristen Smick
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Ashlyn Marie Spilker
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BiJohn Stevenson
Ashley Taylor
Annie Trinh
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Abraham Trujillo
Khalea Turingan
Aaron Vasquez
Sochil Vasquez Diaz
Zayda Vera
Allyson Villa
Eva White
Shane Williams
Sydney Woods
Kent Yokomizo
Brooklyn Young
Janelle Zacarias
Nataly Zepeda
Tenica Zhou
Josie Zuniga





Involvement fair offers friendship

Margaret Contreras
Editor-in-chief



Anthony Ermaya

Students line up to claim their free In-N-Out food during the Involvement Fair on Wednesday. The fair was held in the Campus Center due to the rain, however the food truck still served to students.

The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership held their Involvement Fair on Wednesday in the Campus Center. This event was a chance for students to connect and explore the different clubs and groups on campus.

Due to the winter rain, the event was moved indoors from Sneaky Park to the Campus Center.

It took place on the first and second floor of the Campus Center. There were maps posted around to help students navigate the crowded space.

At the beginning of each semester, the office of student engagement and leadership has this event to help students connect with groups or clubs they may be interested in. It gives a chance for new members to meet and talk to previous or current members.

Some students came to support friends that are part of a group, other students were inquisitive about what the Involvement Fair had to offer. While others really wanted to have a free In-N-Out Burger.

An In-N-Out food truck was provided to students that attended and participated in the event. However, there was a process for a student to claim a burger from the food truck.

Students had to get three signatures each from a different booth showcasing their club. Once they got all three they were able to get their In-N-Out Burger from the food truck outside located in Sneaky Park.

The Involvement Fair gives new clubs and groups the exposure they need to get new members to join. This was the Friendship Club's first time having a booth at the Involvement Fair. "We actually started the group two weeks ago," sophomore business major, Jazmin Jacamo, said. "We made clubs like this in high school to allow students with neurodivergent to have a safe place. It made our high school much better."

Each group decorated their table with a theme according to a city or state. For example the ULV Film Society chose West Hollywood for their theme. They rolled out the red carpet for students who were inquiring about their club.

Some chose different parts of Los Angeles. The Lordsburg Speech and Debate Team had their theme as East Los Angeles. Others had decorations from different states like Hawaii, Philadelphia, Florida and more.

Junior political science major Mara Carlos was offering information about the Lordsburg Speech and Debate team. A group that has been at ULV for about 20 years.



Anthony Ermaya

Jacquelin Sandoval, graduate student in the education and teacher development program, and Eric Santamaria, sophomore music major, host tables for their clubs at the Involvement Fair inside the Campus Center on Wednesday. The event had live music playing on the second floor.

"I think this club opens up people to the idea of public speaking, especially for people who are curious about it," Carlos said.

On the second floor of the Campus Center were some of the sororities and fraternities. Along the second floor you also had the International Student Organization.

"We like to have students come and share something about their hometown," sophomore computer science major Natalie Wong said. "I am a new member to the club and I really enjoy it."

Sophomore computer science major Min Aung shared about how the International Student Organization put on events to showcase the diversity of students that attend ULV.

"It's a very chill atmosphere," Aung said. "Basically we just hang out, share experiences and culture. Like if you had something you wanna celebrate about your culture, you want to celebrate something special in your culture, you can just tell it to us and we would try to make it happen."

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Fairplex Garden Railroad welcomes visitors



Thatiana Gibbs



Thatiana Gibbs

Left: An Amtrak train replica rounds the corner of a Golden Gate Bridge model Sunday at a public run of the Fairplex Garden Railroad. The exhibition, which is open for public runs once a month and every day during the Los Angeles County Fair, will soon welcome a new addition to the train set: highway car models.
Above: Bridge painter statuettes hang off of the Golden Gate Bridge replica on Sunday at the Fairplex Garden Railroad. The exhibition is supported by a group of volunteers who tend to the construction year-round. For more information, visit fgrr.org.

Ballroom becomes island paradise

CC Flaherty
Staff Writer



Rylee Fournier

Tiare Peterson from the Polynesian Dancers dance troupe performs at the road trip: Hawai'i Campus Activities Board event in the Campus Center Ballrooms. This event was to highlight the Hawaiian culture on campus.

The road trip to Hawai'i event on Feb. 6 brought excitement to the students as they wrapped up their first week back from winter break.

The Campus Activities Board put together the tropical road trip. Because of cloudy and rainy weather, the event was moved inside the Campus Center ballroom instead of Citrus Lawn, where it had been scheduled.

The Hawaiian Luau experience was memorable, despite the indoor setting, with tables with pink tablecloths and leis in the center so people could pick their favorite colors and designs.

Students got wristbands and event passes, and were then entered for food and giveaway items.

"First we came up with themes and came up with what state we wanted to base it off of and Hawaii is one of the popular states that we could do a lot with," CAB co-chair Bella Dominguez said.

Giveaway items included Hawaiian cookies from the Honolulu Cookie Company.

The event also featured a show with Polynesian dancers performing.

For food, Hawaiian barbecue trays included white rice, macaroni salad, chicken katsu, teriyaki and more.

"I came to this CAB event because I was very excited to hear that they had Hawaiian barbecue and I love a good meal. I also love cookies," said senior English major Julia Thomas.

"I was excited to see the hula dancers perform," senior accounting major Maddy Smith said.

As everyone was finishing their food, Polynesian performer Tiare Peterson came on stage and performed Ori', a Tahitian dance. Peterson even taught a few dance lessons to members of the audience. Peterson gave lessons on Hula Kahiko, a traditional hula style dance, Mele which is a slower dance performed by women, and Taumafa which is performed by men.

Peterson was wearing a Tahitian Hip Belt and a headpiece featuring shells, feathers, vibrant colors such as a ruby red color.

She also danced with poi balls, hand tassels and feathered Polynesian maracas that are called Uli Ulis Shakers.

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Valentine's: A day for loving or money grubbing?

Majority here says it's all hype

Ethan Anderson
LV Life Editor

Is Valentine's Day truly designed for people to celebrate their love for one another, or is it just another consumer cash grab?

Twenty-six University of La Verne students were asked this question, 19 of whom believe Valentine's Day is a consumer cash grab.

For those who prefer statistics, only 27% of surveyed students believe Valentine's Day is truly about celebrating platonic and romantic love, leaving a large majority of 73% believing the holiday is a consumer cash grab.

The origins of Valentine's Day are not fully clear. According to History.com, historians do know that the legend of St. Valentine is heavily involved. The Catholic Church recognizes three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend from ancient Rome states that Valentine was a priest who served in third-century Rome. Emperor Claudius II decided young men should be training for war and were better suited to be soldiers than husbands and fathers. Marriage was outlawed, and Valentine, seeing the injustice, decided to perform marriages for young couples in secret.

How did Valentine's Day transform from this cultural celebration of love to what it is today?

"To show how much you 'care,' you need to buy this much chocolate, buy this many roses, and go to the nicer restaurant," assistant professor of economics Ryan Lee said. "It puts undue pressure on the relationship."

In today's world, people constantly flaunt their relationships on social media and post what their partner got them for Valentine's Day.

"There's pressure because you want to do the most for your partner and outdo others," sophomore criminology major Penny Macon said. "On social media, we post what our partners get us, and it becomes a competition."

Though this may have pure intentions, it ultimately adds pressure on partners to be able to match that and go as big—or risk seeming like they don't care as much.

"My partner's little sister just broke up with her boyfriend, and she's been begging us to buy her things just so she can post that she got Valentine's gifts," junior rhetoric and communications major Hector Solorzano said. "It's unfortunately shallow, but that's what kids are being taught through social media."

The rise of social media marketing and the fact that many young people are chronically online inadvertently develop materialistic mindsets where people compare their relationships.

Interestingly, of the seven students who answered "for love," only two are in relationships. Can they be feeling the effects that capitalism has on Valentine's Day and even their relationships?

"I think (Valentine's Day) has good intentions, but with how society operates and how people view it, there is a consumerist aspect to it," sophomore political science major Evan Lions said. "I think it really depends on couples."

Others in relationships see the value in having a special day for love to be shared and celebrated.

"I think it's pretty cool to have Feb. 14. Long-term relationships can get dull at times, and the day is an opportunity to spark back up that love," senior kinesiology major Ivan Sosa said.

Corporations will always look for and find ways to capitalize on the emotions surrounding holidays. What's important is that people are educated on seasonal marketing and sales strategies and do not let that pressure hurt their relationships.

Despite the overall pessimistic attitude on campus toward Valentine's Day, it is how it's perceived that either makes it a day of platonic and romantic love—or a day of comparison and heartbreak.

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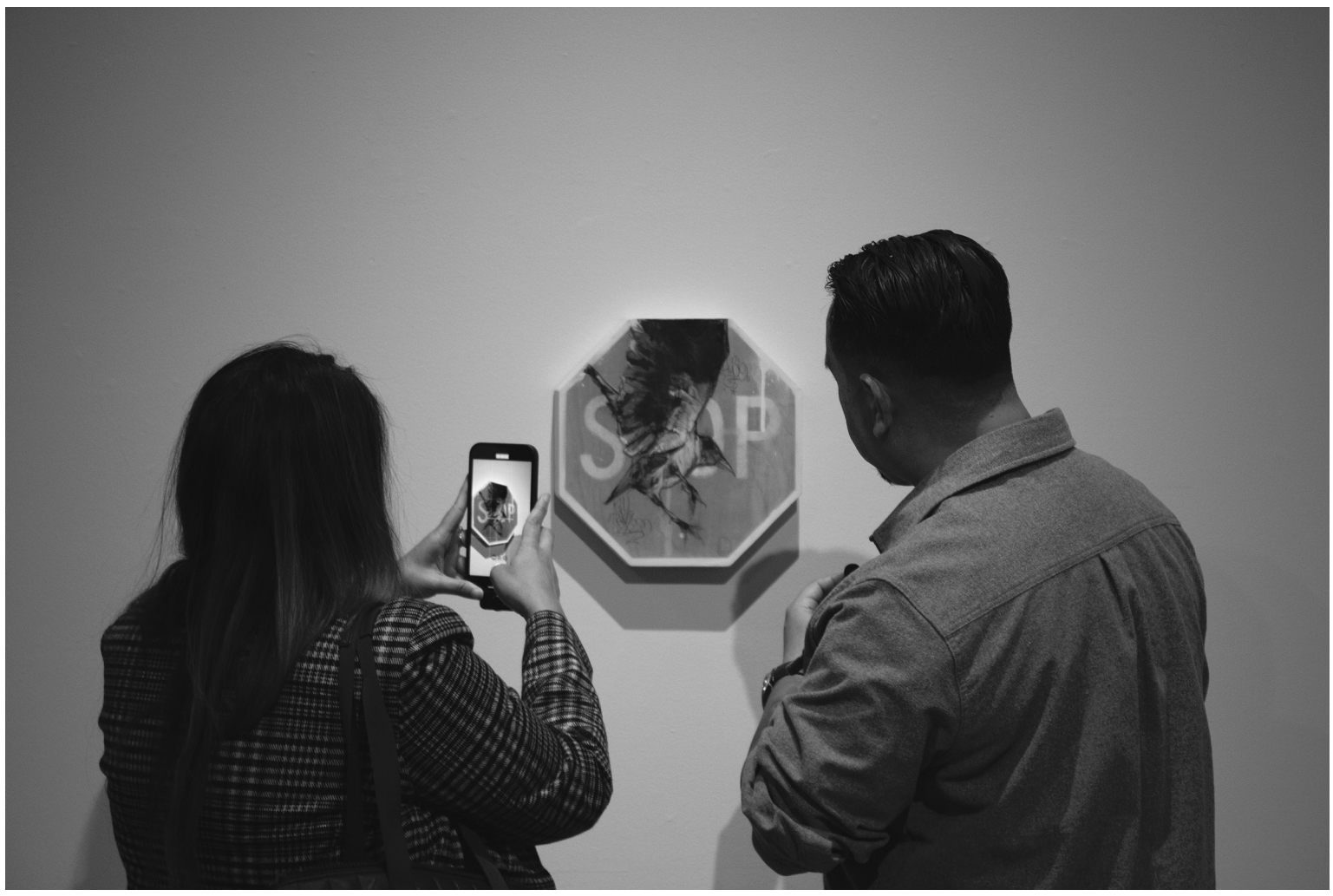


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Group art show 'makes you look'

Artists' inspiration is key



Ethan Anderson

Jamie Ayala, director of public and media relations for the University of La Verne, and artist Carlos "Kopy " Talavera discuss his artwork on camera Tuesday evening for the opening of "Made You Look " in the Harris Gallery. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The exhibit runs through March 21.

Zachary Grech
Staff Writer

The art department hosted an opening reception for the "Made You Look" exhibit Tuesday in the Harris Gallery.

Curated by Gajin Fujita, the exhibit features artists Robert Acuña, Gregory Bojorquez, Nehemiah Cisneros, Cryptik, Alfonso Gonzalez Jr., Defer, Ruben Ochoa, Jose "Prime" Reza, Jesse Simon and Carlos "Kopy" Talavera.

All of these artists' work was based on the theme of Los Angeles.

Show curator Gajin Fujita collaborated with fellow artist Defer on their painting called "Silver Lining."

"The painting was related to an old samurai clan in the 12th century called the Heike Clan," Fujita said. "There was a famous battle between these huge samurai clans and the Heike, unfortunately, were the losers that day.

"There was a famous general that plunged himself wrapping a big ship anchor around himself and eventually committed suicide by jumping in the ocean," Fujita added.

Fujita then talked about why the crab was illustrated in the painting.

Years after the Heike general died, a crab appeared with a certain face, he said.

The Heike people started saying that the dead general was reincarnated by the crab, which shows a silver lining.

Fujita's painting shows how looking beyond the physical appearance of paintings can lead people to unimaginable stories that bring a whole new perspective.

Acuña spray painted his entire painting called "Baaaby."

Acuña used organic and playful shapes to bring his painting to life.

"The painting was based on lowriders and hot rods but I kind of put my own twist on it by incorporating more playful shapes, " Acuña said.

He also talked in detail about how he created his painting "Baaaby"

"The whole painting was done using a spray gun, like if you were going to paint a car, you know, so there was no brushwork on it whatsoever," Acuña said.

"Everything was just sprayed and massed out."

The elements of art can be conveyed through many different shapes, and the inspiration of everyday life like cars can inspire an artist's artwork.

On the other creation of artwork, Simon who is a sculptor, created his painting called "Pagi," which consisted of broken surfboards.

Simon collected these broken surfboards which were made of foam, resin and wood. One thing that made Simon special was his inspiration as an artist.

"If I don't make something, I feel empty and like I am not doing what I am here, and hearing the right music inspires me," Simon said.

More than any visual art, music is Simon's inspiration, which he aimed to bring to life through "Pagi."

Hearing the right song gets him into that creative mindset in which his best artwork comes from this inspiration.

Bojorquez is a professional photographer who presented two photographs at the Harris Gallery called "Lorena & Eagle St." and "Murder Crime Scene" which were both photographed in 2001.

Bojorquez's piece "Lorena & Eagle St." was inspired by the view of Fujita's childhood home.

His other piece "Murder Crime Scene" had a tragic backstory.

"The picture was taken at Fourth Street and Concord Street, and what happened was these two brothers were in an altercation where they were both shot and they both died from their wounds," Boroquez said.

The artist Cryptik had two pieces called "Nirvana" and "Shangri-La."

Both of these pieces were done by clay relief and acrylic on wood panels.

When Cryptik was asked what advice he would give for the next generation.

"Do what you love, do what you're good at, and do the things that inspire you." Cryptik said.

Throughout the art exhibit, all of these artists shared one thing in common.

It was the ability to spread positivity in the world and the passion that drives them to keep on continuing their artwork.

"Made You Look" runs through March 21 in the Harris Gallery.

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Downtown Pomona rings in the year of the snake



Christen Ziska

Gabriel Hernandez, owner and founder of Pin Plugged, hand designs all the pins in his collection. The booth was one of many vendors who helped bring together the Pomona community at the Lunar New Year Art Walk festival Saturday.

Velo shows off uniqueness in colors

Exhibit has puzzling pieces

Marina Bravo
Staff Writer

The University of La Verne's Campus Center West Gallery is showing the exhibit "Velo," a series of 18 paintings that depict and put a creative play on velodromes, tracks designed for cycling races, by artist J. David Carlson.

The name "Velo" is French for bicycle. Each painting depicts the cycling tracks, each with unique color schemes. Some vibrant, almost neon, and some more relaxed colors.

Exhibit curator Dion Johnson, director of art galleries, shared the creative process and what it was like working with Carlson to bring his artistic vision to life.

"You sort of trust them to come up with something that's inventive," Johnson said.

On Monday, the morning of the exhibition's opening, a group of ULV students stopped by to appreciate the artwork.

The students were able to view each of the paintings and interpret them in their own unique ways.

One painting that stood out to the students and got them thinking, was one that was a series of eight paintings that were in a randomized order.

The colors were vibrant and the shapes each all different but similar at the same time almost like a puzzle.

Johnson shared that the original piece was another cycling track. When he and Carlson met to discuss,

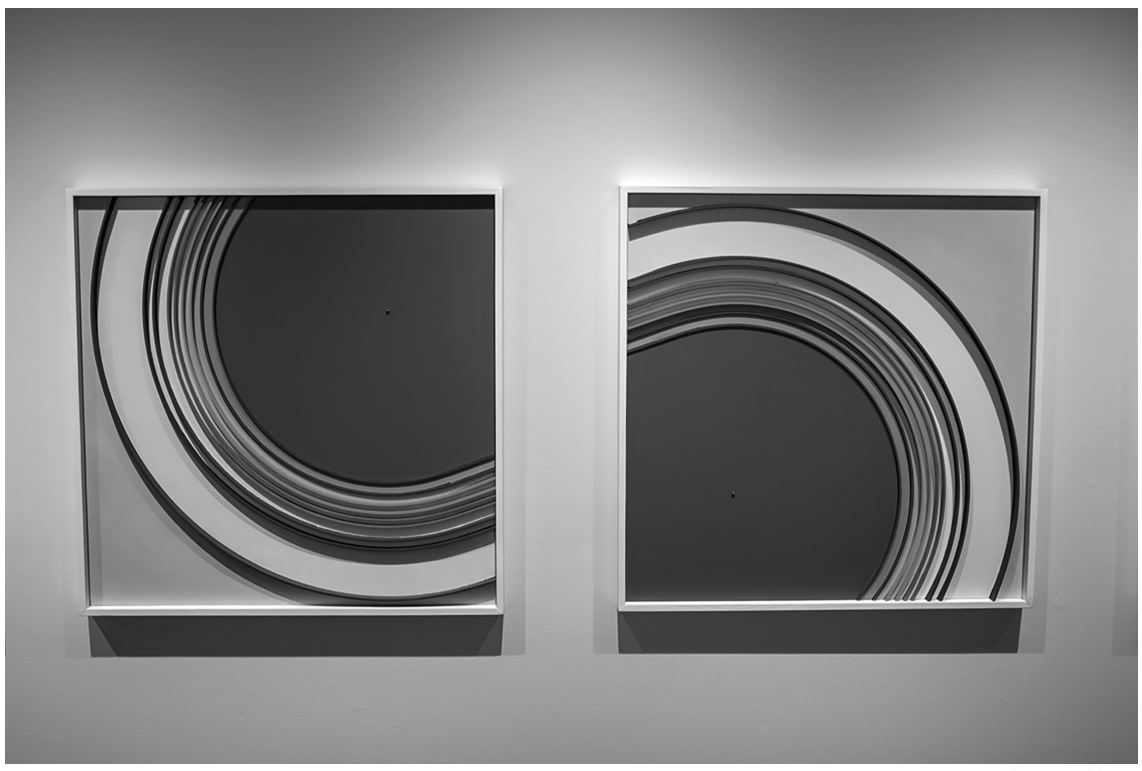
Johnson had suggested the piece be scrambled to allow the viewer to interpret it in their own way. When students viewed that painting, it instantly caught their eye.

"I think that's the one that calls out to me the most, because I'm having like a harder time figuring out what it's supposed to symbolize," Ashley Alvarez, sophomore honors biology major, said.

Art like Carlson's piece opens doors for interpretation and offers connection between artist and audience in that way.

This is exactly what many of the students would mention when looking at these pieces.

Many students correlated "freedom of expression" and "individuality" when it came to the broad spectrum of the importance of art and how Carlson's artwork was able to help them view that as well.



Vicente Rodriguez

Artist J. David Carlson's art series "Velo" on display at the West Gallery until April 10. The series is based on sports fields, tennis courts and bicycle race tracks.

"The importance of art is a representation of what goes on in your head. It is a freedom of expression," Zoe Garcia, freshman psychology major, said.

The human experience is also an influence not only through art but also when viewing and looking into art and coming out to an exhibit like this one.

Johnson shared that in creating these works, Carlson took inspiration from his everyday life while he was at his art studio in San Diego.

"His studio on campus is overlooking tennis courts, and he was inspired by the pattern," Johnson said.

"(Art) is like a way to connect and evoke emotion out to people," Elizabeth Herrera, sophomore biology major, said.,

She shared how she personally evokes emotions and expression to others through her dance.

The exhibit runs through April 10 in the West Gallery on the second floor of the Campus Center.

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Louisiana jazz event celebrates culture, cuisine

Lexi Giacobbe
Staff Writer

To kick off the 2025 Spring semester in style, the Campus Activities Board organized a Louisiana jazz night on the third floor of the Campus Center with jazz band Groovis Maximus performing.

A big draw in for guests to attend the event was the hoodie giveaway, which was featured to imitate Cortez McCoy's, an American illustrator, playful art style adding some inspiration from University Of La Verne.

"I loved spending time with my friends at an upbeat event with good food. Seeing my friends dancing to the jazz music was definitely a highlight of my night," junior business administration major Mya Ray said. "It was my first jazz concert and the room was so lively, vibrant and you can tell everyone was having a great time and I would definitely come back to another jazz event."

The event was planned by senior business administration major Jimena Suarez, co-chair board of the Campus Activities Board.

"We had a jazz night last year and it turned out pretty popular so we wanted to continue it again this year," Suarez said. "More people attended than we thought and we exceeded our expectations with about 300 attendees."

Along with planning the event was junior criminology major Morgan Zafra who was the designer of the crewnecks that were handed out.



Olivia Russo

Jim Scimonetti on saxophone, Ed Weiss on trombone and Rex Merriweather on trumpet play on stage for students on Feb. 5 in the Campus Center Ballroom. They are members of the jazz band Groovis Maximus, and were joined by Harry Smellenburg on tuba and Mark Simonian on piano. The Los Angeles based band features a rotating lineup that also plays soul, funk and R&B.

"I modeled the design after the cover art on Miles Davis's 1972 album "On the Corner," Zafra said.

"As the CAB event was based around New Orleans jazz, my colleague and CAB member Meena Furutan and I decided Miles Davis would be a perfect inspiration."

"Seeing the band was a very fun experience for her and her friend's," senior kinesiology major Serenity De La Torre said. "The band was super lively and you can see they truly enjoyed playing jazz music.

"It also reminded me of walking around at Disneyland which is always a good thing."

Hot cocoa and warm, freshly baked beignets were among the many treat selections offered to better illustrate the cultural theme and add to the ambiance the music created.

These treats provided the students with an opportunity to taste the flavors and experience the vibrancy of New Orleans all while staying on campus.

"He loves performing jazz, and he hopes to turn more people onto the wonderful music," lead band member Jim Scimonetti said.

"When I play my goal is to hope you guys are catching the fun of jazz.

"It is like playing basketball, we are working together as a team to communicate with the audience and create something wonderful," he said.

Another band member found his own relationship with jazz to be familial and a deep connection within his life.

"I have known Jim for several years and Jim assembled the other musician which then created Groovis Maximus," Mark Simonian, band member, said. "My father was a jazz musician. I grew to love jazz and grew into playing and when playing with talented musicians like tonight it is a true pleasure.

"A number of songs we performed tonight were from my childhood and I'm in awe that I am able to play them now."

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Leopards get first win over Tigers

Tati Foor
Staff Writer

In a chilly home opener at Ben Hines Field, the Leopards pulled out a win against the East Texas Baptist Tigers on Wednesday.

The match up was a battle with a lot of back and forth scoring, but after the Tigers tied it up, 7-7, in the eighth inning, the Leopards were able to come back and seal the deal with a final score of 9-7.

"It was gritty," head coach Scott Winterburn said.

"They kept fighting the whole game and ended up pulling it out…I thought our team battled hard."

Ethan Galindo, senior starting pitcher for La Verne, gave his team a strong start with no earned runs in 3.1 innings of work.

During the bottom of the third inning, Leopards senior outfielder Benny Vogel got things going when he singled to right field, driving in junior shortstop Ryan Vosika and senior outfielder Logan Reese.

On an error, Vogel was able to advance to second which caused another fielding error on the Tigers, which brought junior outfielder Nolan Anguiano home to put the Leopards in the lead, 3-0.

"I was just trying to go up there and get a good pitch to hit," Vogel said. "My teammates did the job before me getting on base so I was trying to get up there, get a good pitch to hit, and put a good swing on it."

With a 7-2 lead for the Leopards in the seventh inning, things started to get a little rocky when the Tigers had three hits and four runs scored off of the Leopards' graduate student pitcher Austin Klopfenstein.

"All we were worried about was making the next play and having confidence in our pitchers," junior second baseman Aidan Salcedo said. "We knew we had to make something happen."

The Leopards looked to switch things up to knock the Tigers' bats off their rhythm by putting in senior relief pitcher Garret Halbeisen in during the seventh inning.

With the help of the Leopards defense, he was able to slow down the Tigers' offense, allowing only one run to tie the score in the top of the eighth.

The Leopards claimed their lead back in the bottom of the eighth when Anguiano scored on a wild pitch thrown by Tigers sophomore pitcher Trip Barron, bringing in Vogel who was still on base.

Salcedo singled to center field, sending Vogel home to add another run for La Verne.

The Leopards then had a quick one-two-three inning to end the game, and Halbeisen earned his first win for the season.

"I thought I was going to come out after the eighth inning," Halbeisen said. "But I was glad that I could go out there and finish it, and do the job that I wanted to do."

The victory marks a strong start to the Leopards' season. Despite any first game mistakes, the team showed resilience, throughout the Tigers' comeback.

The Leopards will look to carry this momentum into their next game, the last of their three-game series with the Tigers at 2 p.m. Friday at Ben Hines Field.

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Men's basketball adds another loss to record



Jai'La Counts

Alicia Naranjo
Staff Writer

The La Verne men's basketball team fell short against the Redlands Bulldogs, 86-78, Wednesday night at Frantz Athletic Court.

This loss – their fourth in a row – gives them an overall record of 6-14, and 1-10 in the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The Bulldogs were the first to put points on the board by dodging the ULV defense, scoring two points.

Shortly after, graduate student forward Paul Antonis scored his first three-pointer of the game with an assist by senior guard Logen Howard.

La Verne senior forward Ryan Lin makes a jump shot over Redlands junior guard Omari Ferguson during the game Wednesday night at Frantz Athletic Court. Lin finished with six points and one block. The Leopards lost to the Bulldogs, 86-78.

Later in the first half Antonis rebounded then scored a second three-pointer with an assist by freshman guard Tristan Guzman.

In the last two minutes of the first half, Antonis made yet another three-pointer with Howard assisting.

By the end of the first half Redlands was up, 45-34, after hard efforts put in by the Leopards.

Starting the second half strong, Antonis kept momentum going with another good three-pointer assisted by junior guard Karl Ashley.

Howard then shot a three-pointer, also assisted by Ashley, early in the second half.

Within the last two minutes, Antonis made two more three-point shots, both assisted by Howard.

Sophomore guard Gavin Ibraihm scored a three-pointer of his own, also assisted by Howard, in the last five seconds of the game.

The Leopards eight three-pointers in the game.

"The part of the last three that I hit was the most exciting, you know," Antonis said. "I was not really counting the points I had, so it just felt good."

Despite the failed efforts to end their losing streak, the Leopards kept a positive outlook on their plays and the efforts of their teammates.

"I felt good throughout the whole game so it was just nice to be out there with my teammates and sharing my mind with them when we get back to the locker room," Antonis said.

The Leopards will next face off against the Caltech Beavers at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court.

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Women's basketball capitalizes on a 77-61 win

Talar Sarkissian
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team secured a 77-61 win over Occidental on Saturday at Frantz Athletic Court in a game that was an uphill battle for the Leopards that was driven by defense and high-energy bench presence throughout.

Right from the tip-off, La Verne brought intensity. Head coach Anthony Mason implemented a 2-3 zone defense, countered by Occidental's man-to-man approach.

The Leopards had great ball movement and a pass-and-cut-focused offense, which helped get several looks in the paint. Occidental responded with fast-break opportunities, giving them the lead in the first quarter, ending 19-14.

The game shifted in the second quarter as Occidental coach Anahit Aladzhanyan had her team in a full-court press.

La Verne responded by switching to man-to-man defense, which disrupted their momentum. With five minutes remaining, La Verne was down 25-19, but their defense forced multiple turnovers, leading to a 7-0 run.

With three minutes left, the Leopards took the lead.

A buzzer-beater by La Verne's senior guard Annie Trinh secured a one point lead going into the second half at 32-31.

Mason emphasized consistency throughout the game.

"This game was just us going long and being consistent with our game plan," Mason said.

The Leopards started the second half determined to build on momentum. They opened the third quarter with aggressive man-to-man defense, which forced a shot clock violation on Occidental's first possession.

Occidental junior guard Megan Delgado was a threat from beyond the arc, making multiple contested three-pointers. Despite this, La Verne responded with three pointers from senior guard Marissa Howell and sophomore guard Allison McGill, pushing their lead to 51-48.

Howell put on a show, ending the game with 21 points and a 100% free-throw percentage.

"It just feels good to know that our hard work has paid off and that we can just go out there and perform the way our coach wants us to," Howell said.

La Verne's bench played a key role.

"I want to shout out our bench energy. They were loud, they kept us going during lows, and they gave the team the energy they needed," said coach Mason.

Sophomore forward Alyssa Smith said maintaining stamina in a high-intensity game was important.

"Not wanting to hold back and try to conserve your energy. Just going all out," she said.

Her effort was a crucial part of the win, as she had 15 rebounds and 14 points.

As the fourth quarter began, the game was up for grabs.

With six minutes left in the quarter, senior guard Annie Trinh was able to bank a shot while getting fouled, converting it into a three-point play, taking the score to 62-53. The crowd exploded with cheers as this became a turning point.

The Leopards capitalized on defensive stops, maintaining their intensity and opening the lead to 71-59 with two minutes remaining. Despite last-minute three-point attempts from Occidental, La Verne secured the win, 77-61.

"We just made a few slight defensive adjustments to try to keep them from going downhill," Mason said.

"And then, just again, re-emphasize the idea that we needed to own the glass. That's going to be us. We're going to win games. We're going to own the glass."

The team followed the win with a loss to Redlands, 78-69, on Wednesday.

They are currently 7-15 overall and 4-10 in Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play. They will take on Caltech at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Frantz Athletic Court.

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